University of Houston Law Center

PRE-TRIAL LITIGATION
SYLLABUS

Spring 2027
Thursdays 6:00-9:00 p.m.
In-class Instruction
Room TBD

THE ONLY ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FIRST CLASSS IS TO REVIEW THE SYLLABUS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SYLLABUS OR HOW THE COURSE IS STRUCTURED, ASK THE QUESTIONS IN CLASS. AFTER THE FIRST LECTURE, YOU WILL BE DIVIDED INTO SMALL SECTIONS ("LAW FIRMS"). ONCE IN YOUR LAW FIRM, YOU WILL BE PAIRED UP AGAINST ANOTHER STUDENT WHO WILL BE YOUR OPPOSING COUNSEL FOR THE SEMESTER. WE MAY OR MAY NOT ASSIGN YOU YOUR PREFERENCE BASED ON WHETHER WE HAVE EQUAL PREFERENCES FOR PLAINTIFF AND DEFENDANT IN THE CLASS. YOU WILL KEEP THAT LAW FIRM AND PARTY ASSIGNMENT FOR THE REST OF THE SEMESTER.

CASE MATERIALS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED BY YOUR PROFESSORS AS THE COURSE PROGRESSES.

DO NOT PURCHASE OR REVIEW THE CASE MATERIALS FROM OTHER SOURCES. AS A PARTICIPANT IN THIS CLASS, YOU WILL BE PROVIDED PLAINTIFF-ONLY OR DEFENSE-ONLY MATERIALS. YOU WILL RECEIVE OTHER PARTY SENSITIVE MATERIALS AS THE CASE PROCEEDS, AND YOU WILL NEED TO SECURE ADDITIONAL MATERIALS THROUGH DISCOVERY IN THE CLASS. AS THE COURSE PROGRESSES, YOU WILL BE GIVEN PASSWORDS TO THE SPECIFIC LOCKBOXES ON THE TWEN PRE-TRIAL LITIGATION SITE. DO NOT ATTEMPT TO ACCESS A LOCKBOX UNLESS AND UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PASSWORD FROM YOUR PROFESSORS.

Class Professors:

Jennifer Callan jcallan97@att.net
Yee Cheung yeescheung@gmail.com
Joseph Dumas JDumas@thompsoncoe.com
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SPECIAL NOTE:

AI Generated Text

The software technology known as artificial intelligence has recently expanded its capability to generate text (AI Generated Text). Examples of the technology include what are known as "generative" large language models (LLMs), and specific implementations that are well known in the general public as ChatGPT or the like. These systems can generate text in response to prompts and/or input of other text/documents/code/images. The output – the AI Generated Text – appears to have human-mimicking "intelligence" and is thus potentially usable as a substitute for written work product a student might generate themselves. AI Generated Text can include computer code or programs as well as human language content.

Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to not prompt, generate, obtain, read, or use any AI Generated Text in relation to any activity or assessment in this course except as expressly allowed by the professors. This applies to AI Generated Text from yourself or others. This pledge includes that your assessment work product in the course is without any contribution from AI Generated Text unless expressly authorized by the professors. This specifically extends to the plagiarism policy and unauthorized aid/materials parts of the Honor Code: AI Generated Text will be treated as from another/other in applying the plagiarism policy to this course. The term "assessment" means any work product generated for this course that is submitted to the instructors or presented in a class session, regardless of whether it is graded content or not. Nor may AI Generated Text be used in the development or drafting of any assessments created by you in a non-proctored environment, such as "take-home" assignments, without prior express permission from the professors.

Instances when you are allowed or not allowed to incorporate AI Generated Text in your assignment(s) are expressly listed on the syllabus. These designations are listed as "**AI use NOT ALLOWED**" or as "**AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.**" For any assignment in which you use AI Generated Text, you must turn in the prompts you used to generate the material, in addition to turning in the final product. Note that for any assignment where AI use is allowed, you are not required to use AI if you choose not to.

Electronic caselaw research aids, such as Westlaw or LexisNexis, and online or hardcopy form books, such as those promulgated by O'Connor's, are not considered large language models (LLMs) or AI Generated Text. You may use these types of aids freely throughout the semester. If you are unsure whether a research aid, website, or other resource falls under the "AI Generated Text" restriction, please ask.

Objective of the Course: To provide law students with an opportunity to apply pre-trial rules of procedure to a civil case problem. This course will expose students to the use of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure in an adversarial setting. Students will engage in advocacy, strategic thinking and logical analysis. Students will receive actual experience in interacting with clients, drafting pleadings, interpreting the rules, arguing motions and taking depositions.

Overview of the Course: The class will meet in a general session for select topics during a portion of each class. The class then breaks into smaller sections where students will prepare to prosecute and/or defend various aspects of civil cases. In each small section, the class will be taught and supervised by licensed attorneys and/or judges in developing their case. When not meeting for general session, the small sections will meet and will be split into Plaintiff Counsel and Defense Counsel representing the two sides in a civil lawsuit. In these sections, the students will receive supplemental instruction and will be expected to perform like associates in a law firm reporting to the senior partner. The students' assignments are to investigate the law and the facts, report on various strategies, file suit, conduct discovery, prepare, respond to and argue pretrial motions, including a summary judgment hearing. The students will be expected to have knowledge of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules and fees for State Courts in Harris County, Texas**.**

As a student in this class, you will research and draft pleadings and motions, such as original and amended petitions, original and amended answers, motions and discovery, including initial disclosures, interrogatories and requests for production and other documents. You will advise your client for deposition preparation. You will prepare a motion for summary judgment and/or a response to a motion for summary judgment. You will conduct and defend a deposition using a court reporter, and argue motions before a sitting judge in a Texas state court. Your professor(s) will provide you with a list of courts conducting hearings. It is your responsibility to contact the court to submit the necessary paperwork for your hearing. As in actual practice, it is important that work be submitted when due unless your opposing counsel and/or professor has okayed an extension in advance.

You will also maintain a case notebook and submit it at the end of the semester for a grade. During the course of the litigation, you will turn in billable hours statements each week of activities and charges you have performed. You must submit the documents timely, participate in and attend the hearings, and conduct a deposition as required in the syllabus.

You are expected to review the materials listed in the "Class Preparation" section of the syllabus, as well as any materials in the "Resource Reference Materials" section on TWEN before each week's class. You do not need to review the PowerPoint presentations on TWEN before lectures.

ANY WEEKLY ASSIGNMENT DUE FOR THE CLASS IS TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR PROFESSOR BY NOON (12:00pm) ON WEDNESDAY, THE DAY BEFORE CLASS. PLEADINGS, MOTIONS AND DISCOVERY ARE LIKEWISE TO BE SERVED ON YOUR OPPOSING COUNSEL BY NOON (12:00pm) ON WEDNESDAY, THE DAY BEFORE CLASS. ALL ASSIGNMENTS ARE TO BE FILED ON TIME. LATE ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN WITHOUT AN APPROVED EXTENSION MAY BE DOCKED AS MUCH AS 1 POINT PER DAY FOR EVERY DAY PAST THE DEADLINE (BEGINNING AT 12:01PM ON THE SCHEDULED DUE DATE). ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST EITHER BE SIGNED OR

HAVE A SIGNATURE OR A NOTATION OF ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE ABOVE YOUR SIGNATURE BLOCK.

YOU WILL ALSO SUBMIT WEEKLY BILLING STATEMENTS CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF SERVICES AND TIME WORKED ON THE ASSIGNED CASE AS THOUGH YOU WERE BILLING A CLIENT FOR YOUR TIME. THE WEEKLY BILLING STATEMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO YOUR PROFESSORS (BUT NOT YOUR OPPOSING COUNSEL) BY NOON (12:00pm) ON EACH WEDNESDAY, THE DAY BEFORE CLASS. PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST SUBMIT A WEEKLY BILLING STATEMENT EVERY WEEK, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC ASSIGNMENT DUE THAT WEEK.

Weekly assignments are graded on a 4-point scale, with 4 being the highest grade available. Weekly billing statements are not graded on the 4-point scale, but failure to turn in one or more of the required billing statements may be reflected in your final Professionalism grade.

"GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE" OPTION: During the semester, each student is entitled to one (1), 24-hour extension on a weekly assignment, no questions asked. Late assignments turned in without an approved extension may be docked as much as 1 point per day for every day past the deadline (beginning at 12:01pm on the scheduled due date). In order to obtain the extension, you must complete the following steps **PRIOR TO THE ORIGINAL DEADLINE FOR THE ASSIGNMENT**:

1. Get approval for the extension from your opposing counsel via an email request and affirmative response.
2. Forward the email chain (i.e., the request and approval) to your small group professors showing you have approval.
3. Then turn in your assignment no later than the next day (Thursday) before noon (12:00pm) as described above.

Professional dress is REQUIRED for all hearings and depositions unless otherwise noted. Law office casual is acceptable for daily class.

You should attend all class sessions and arrive on time. The UHLC attendance policy requires attendance at 80% of all scheduled (or makeup) classes, or a student risks being dropped from the course. Attendance will be taken at each class. Please note that you are responsible for managing your absences from class and ensuring that your total number of absences does not exceed 20%.

Because this class depends upon the initiative and imagination of the students, there is no accurate and complete way to predict the exact contours of various assignments.

Grading Breakdown: You will receive oral and/or written evaluations, critiques and suggestions on work submitted and oral advocacy assignments. Your final grade will be based on the following:

- Weekly Assignments: 30%
- Summary Judgment Motion/Response: Draft = 10%; Final version = 25%
- Oral Advocacy Skills: 30%
- Trial Notebook: graded "complete" or "incomplete"
- Class Participation/Professionalism: 5%

Pre-trial Litigation Class Schedule and Assignments

As a student in this class, you will prepare letters, discovery requests, motions and other documents that are relevant to the litigation. Under the Texas Rules, some documents are filed with the court with a copy delivered to opposing counsel as reflected in a Certificate of Service. Other documents are served on opposing counsel only but are not filed with the court. For the purposes of this class, submit to your small group professors **1 copy of ALL** documents that you prepare. Documents must be captioned and drafted as they would for filing in court, i.e., full signature blocks with electronic signature, certificates of service and conference (if applicable), Proposed Orders, Requests for Hearing and cover letters.

FORMATTING your email and documents when submitting assignments:

1. The subject of the e-mail will be the name of the documents you are submitting (e.g. "Plaintiff's Original Petition", "Defendant's Answer", etc.).

2. The document will contain a header or footer with your name and name of section (e.g. Goranson/Hawk, etc.). Please use a footer with your name on the first page of your document. This is a departure from the format you would use in actual court filings but is required for this class.

You will receive oral and/or written evaluations, critiques and suggestions on work submitted and on your oral advocacy skills. You will compile your trial (case) notebook and keep it up to date as the semester progresses and will submit a copy at the end of the semester.

Documenting and collecting for the legal time you have invested in a case is an important part of law practice. Keep in mind the quote ascribed to Abraham Lincoln: "A lawyer's time is his stock and trade." Sample billable hour forms are posted on TWEN so that you can use them electronically. Update and submit your billable hour time sheets on a weekly basis. The time sheets should contain a running tally for the semester.

You will do several motion hearings during the semester, at least one of which will be in open court.

Textbooks: Required - Michol O'Connor, *O'Connor's Texas Rules * Civil Trials* (most recent edition) ("O'Connors")

*You should access this textbook online since the paper copy is much too expensive at this point. If you would like to use an actual book, we recommend finding a slightly earlier edition, which is less expensive and may be available from third-party sellers, former students, or a law firm updating its collection.

Suggested - David M. Malone & Peter T. Hoffman, *The Effective Deposition*

Course Materials: Posted on TWEN.
Case Materials: Supplied as the class progresses.
Recommended Software: Adobe Acrobat Standard or Pro
Access to Other Resources: WestLaw, Lexis

TWEN: *To access our class web page, go to http://lawschool.westlaw.com/twen and enter your Westlaw ID. If you do not have your Westlaw ID, contact the UHLC library staff or the Westlaw representative. Once logged in, click on add/drop a course and add Pre-trial Lit., Spring 2027, Professor Hawk. The password is "RollingStoneRule".*

Week	Class Preparation	Assignments Due and Class Activities
Week 1, Thursday Jan. 21	**Initial Client Contact/Before Filing Suit** Read *O'Connor's* Chapter 1. Register for access to TWEN available through Westlaw under Pretrial Lit, Spring 2027. Password: RollingStoneRule. The class will be divided into plaintiff and defense firms. Each of you will have "opposing counsel." The jurisdiction for this class is Texas. Plaintiff's attorneys will file Case No. 123456 in the 613th Civil District Court, Harris County, Texas. Consider whether you would rather be a plaintiff or defense attorney.	**General Session:** Introduction to course, online forms & research tools Plaintiff/Defense perspective of case Client Communications Discuss litigation guides and form books: *Texas Pattern Jury Charge*, *Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, O'Connor's Texas Causes of Action, O'Connor's Texas Civil Forms, Dorsaneo's Texas Litigation Guide, West's Texas Practice Series vol. 47 Handbook on Texas Discovery Practice, etc.* Discuss elements of Claim Charts. Class divides into plaintiff and defense law firms. Law firms will choose a managing partner. The managing partner will have such duties as keeping firm contact records, establishing a listserv and facilitating scheduling hearings. Law firms select managing partner and choose firm name. Professors choose litigation teams of opposing counsel. **Assignments Due:** ***None.*** **Small Sections Activities:** Small sections receive law office memoranda regarding new client assignment. Discuss case upon which we will focus our attention this semester and other pretrial considerations. Discuss elements of the Claim Chart that will be due next week. Begin to prepare billable hours statement. **"Reel to Real"** 1) *Anatomy of a Murder* Scene 4 - Questioning to Marion (through both interviews); 2) *A Civil Action* Scene 4 - On the spot on the air (through Travolta's walking up & down creek)
Week 2, Thursday Jan. 28	**Causes of Action/Plaintiff's Lawsuit/Jury Charge** Research possible legal issues and prepare Claim Chart with possible claims, defenses and counterclaims.	**General Session:** Elements of initial pleadings and case strategies; Venue and jurisdiction; Jurisdiction of Texas and Federal Courts; Requests for Disclosure;

	Review written contract for services applicable for type of client (e.g., contingency fee contract, hourly fee agreement with or without retainer, fixed fee agreement). Begin reading *O'Connor's*, Chapter 2, Plaintiff's Lawsuit, sections B, E, F, G, H. Read *O'Connor's* Chapter 6, Subpart E "Requests for Disclosure". **HEARINGS ON DILATORY PLEAS WILL BE SET FOR WEEK 3.** Hearings will be held in class as directed following TRCP. You must follow TRCP as far as serving the proper notice and documents on opposing counsel.	Document Preservation. **Assignments Due:** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants submit Claim Chart with possible claims, defenses, counterclaims and elements of each.*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED)*** **Small Session Activities:** Discuss client interview, communication and relations. Law firms receive additional materials from clients. Discuss Claim Chart, trial notebook, case strategy. Discuss Dilatory Pleas in this case. Topic(s) for Dilatory Pleas will be assigned. Pleadings (motions and responses) to set up Dilatory Pleas will be distributed. Professors will conduct a sample hearing for the students to observe. **"Reel to Real"** *1) Erin Brokovich* Scene 27 – Erin and Ed plotting Strategy
Week 3, Thursday Feb. 4	**Investigation of Law and Facts/Responsive Pleadings** Continue investigating facts and law, research of legal issues. Research causes of action. Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 3, "Defendant's Pleadings" Rule 91a and Expedited Jury Trial Rules. Plaintiffs prepare original petitions and requests for disclosure.	**General Session:** **1.** Responsive pleadings, special exceptions, jurisdiction and venue challenge, pleas in abatement. **2.** Litigation plan and discovery (including Third Party Discovery). **Assignments Due:** ***Plaintiffs file and serve Original Petitions.*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** **Small Session Activities:** Hearings on Dilatory Pleas. Law firms meet with professors to discuss case, determine theories and strategies. **"Reel to Real"** *1) A Civil Action* Scene 7 – A declaration of war (through phone call)

Week 4, Thursday Feb. 11	**<u>Discovery</u>** Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 6, Discovery: Subpart A "General Rules for Discovery"; B "Scope of Discovery"; C "Electronic Discovery"; D "Securing Discovery from Experts"; Subpart; B § 12 "What is Discoverable"; Sec. 3 "What is Not Applicable Discoverable" Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 6, Discovery: Subpart G "Interrogatories"; H "Requests for Admissions"; I "Securing Documents & Things"; J "Medical Records; K "Entry on Land"	**General Session:** Discovery **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Defendants</u> file and serve Answers and Counterclaims.*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** **Small Session Activities:** Discuss Claim Chart and how it fits into discovery plan Discovery Firms meet to discuss initial discovery, including initial disclosures, interrogatories, requests for production. Continue dilatory plea hearings as necessary.
Week 5 Thursday Feb. 18	**<u>Discovery Responses/Client Communication</u>** <u>Plaintiffs</u> and <u>Defendants</u> prepare interrogatories and requests for production (limit of 15 for each) and optional requests for admission. Also prepare third party discovery requests. Read *O'Connor's* Chapter 6, Subpart A § 18 "Resisting Discovery"; § 19 "Types of Objection to Discovery"; Re-read/Review *O'Connor's* Chapter 6 Subpart B § 2 "What is Discoverable"; § 3 "What is Not Discoverable".	**General Session:** Discovery responses Client communications **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Plaintiffs</u> file and serve Answers to Counterclaims if needed.*** ***<u>Plaintiffs</u> and <u>Defendants</u> file and serve Interrogatories (ROGs), Requests for Production (RFPs), optional Requests for Admission (RFAs), and third-party discovery.*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** **Small Session Activities** Discuss discovery requests received and appropriate responses. **"Reel to Real"** 1) *The Letter* Scene 7 – The letter Scene 8 – To save your neck 2) *Class Action* Scene 16 – Panel's report Scene 17 – The letter of the law (through truck on street)
Week 6, Thursday Feb. 25	**<u>Discovery Disputes</u>** Parties prepare responses to discovery requests.	**General Session:** Discovery Disputes and Sanctions

	Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 6 Subpart A, 20 "Motion for Protective Order"; 21 "Motion to Quash or Motion to Modify Subpoena"; 22 "Motion to Compel Discovery"; 23 "Spoliation", 24 "Motion for Discovery Sanction"; 25 "Waiver of Sanctions, Discovery & Objection; 26 "Review of Discovery Orders **HEARINGS ON DISCOVERY DISPUTES WILL BE SET FOR WEEK 7 AND WEEK 11.** Hearings will be held in class as directed following TRCP. You must follow TRCP as far as serving the proper notice and documents on opposing counsel.	**Assignments Due:** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants file and serve discovery responses to (1) ROGs, (2) RFPs, (3) Initial Disclosures and (4) RFAs (if provided). (AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** **Small Session Activities:** Discovery Disputes Assigned Firms meet to review responses and discuss discovery disputes. Discuss continued investigation. What facts do you need to proceed? Do you need further discovery?
Week 7, Thursday Mar. 4	**Summary Judgment Motions and Summary Judgment Responses** Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 7, Disposition Without Trial, Subpart B "Motion for Summary Judgment – General Rule"; C "Traditional Motion for Summary Judgment; D "No Evidence Motion for Summary Judgment"; E "Motion for Judgment of Agreed Statement of Facts. Read Malone & Hoffman, Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19. Attorneys should evaluate the evidence and relevant cases and research issues for Motion / Response for Summary Judgment. Read deposition texts and materials. *NOTE: All MSJs must be traditional MSJs ("No Evidence" MSJs are not allowed). Read Judge David Hittner and Lynne Liberato, *Summary Judgments in Texas* – 46 Hous. L. Rev. 1379 (2010).	**General Session:** Summary Judgment Motions and Summary Judgement Responses **Assignments Due:** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants prepare and submit Jury Charge Questions for the COAs and/or affirmative defenses that would be presented at trial.*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED.)*** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants file and serve supplemental discovery requests and responses as needed.*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants prepare to argue motions to compel in class.*** **Small Session Activities:** Discovery Dispute Hearings. Firms meet to discuss deposition outlines and to discuss summary judgments and how depositions can provide evidence for summary judgment motions.
Week 8, Thursday Mar. 11	**Deposition Skills & Witness Preparation** Plaintiffs prepare Deposition Outline for Defendant's deposition and submit to professors. Defendants prepare Deposition Outline for Plaintiff's deposition and submit to professors. Parties prepare to argue motions to compel and	**General Session:** Client and Witness Interview and Preparation Deposition and Deposition Skills **Assignments Due:** ***Plaintiffs and Defendants prepare and submit Deposition Outlines for opposing party's deposition (respectively).*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on***

	responses in class. Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 6, Subpart F "Depositions". Read Malone & Hoffman, *The Effective Deposition*, Chapters 5-11.	***the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)*** **Small Session Activities:** Professors will conduct sample deposition excerpts for the students to observe. Practice Deposition Skills. Firms meet to discuss and prepare for depositions in Weeks 9 and 10. Each law firm will divide topics among the firm's attorneys covering the information deemed relevant by the firm. Plaintiffs and Defendants will conduct their depositions during class times. **"Reel to Real"** 1) *My Cousin Vinny* Scene 17 - Questioning Sam Tipton Scene 17 – Mr. Crane & Mrs. Riley; 2) *Class Action* Scene 13 – Witness elimination; 3) *The Verdict* Scene 13 – Witnesses; 4) *Erin Brokovich* Scene 4 – Court; 5) *A Civil Action* Scene 10 – One father's stay Scene 11 – Questioning Riley Scene 13 – A witness
SPRING BREAK: MARCH 15-21		
Week 9, Thursday Mar. 25	**<u>Depositions</u>** Prepare to depose Plaintiff/Defendant per previous instructions.	***NO GENERAL SESSION – SMALL SESSION ONLY*** **Small Session Activities:** Plaintiff's and Defendant's Deposition(s). **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Plaintiffs</u> and <u>Defendants</u> prepare and submit Notice of Deposition for opposing party.*** ***(AI use ALLOWED, but you must indicate on the submitted assignment if you used AI and also turn in your prompts.)***
Week 10, Thursday Apr. 1	**<u>Depositions, continued</u>** Prepare to depose Plaintiff/Defendant per previous instructions.	***NO GENERAL SESSION – SMALL SESSION ONLY*** **Small Session Activities:** Plaintiff's and Defendant's Deposition(s).

		Assignments Due: ***None.***
Week 11, Thursday Apr. 8	**<u>Negotiations and Settlement</u>** Alternative Dispute Resolution Read *O'Connor's*, Chapter 4, Alternative Dispute Resolution – Mediation, Subpart A "The ADR System"; B "Mediation". Read Chapter 4, Mediation; Malone & Hoffman, Chapters 16, 17, 18, 19;	**General Session:** Mediations, Negotiations and Settlement Receive deposition transcripts. Continue Hearings on Discovery Disputes as necessary. **Assignments Due:** ***Defendants MSJ rough drafts to be turned in to professors for comments and rewrites.*** ***Due by: 12:00pm, Monday, Apr. 12*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED.)*** **"Reel to Real"** *1) The Rain Maker* Scene 10 – Sworn in by a fool (through Judge Tyrone Kipler) Scene 11 – An offer to settle Scene 12 – Judge Tyrone Kipler *2) Erin Brokovich* Scene 19 – PG&E sends over a flunky Scene 29 – Meeting PG&E lawyer; *3) True Grit* Scene 4 – Horse trading
Week 12, Thursday Apr. 15	**<u>Courtroom Conduct and Protocols</u>** Schedule or confirm MSJ hearings with court.	**General Session:** Courtroom protocols, demeanor and argument **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Defendants</u> MSJ final drafts to be filed and served.*** ***Due by: 12:00pm, Monday, Apr. 19*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED.)*** **Small Session Activities:** Discuss MSJ Responses, affidavits and ethical considerations in responses to MSJs **"Reel to Real"** *1) A Civil Action* Scene 8 – Motion to Dismiss; *2) My Cousin Vinny* Scene 7 – Learning the procedure

Week 13, Thursday Apr. 22	**<u>MSJ Hearing Preparation and Case Notebooks</u>** Discuss MSJ hearings and case notebooks. Optional MSJ hearing practice sessions and questions.	**General Session:** MSJ hearings prep and discussion. **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Plaintiffs</u> Response to MSJ rough drafts to be turned in to professors for comments and rewrites.*** ***Due by: 12:00pm, Monday, April 26*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED.)*** **Small Session Activities:** MSJ Responses
Week 14, Thursday Apr. 29 **LAST CLASS**	**<u>FINAL CLASS</u>** Discuss MSJ hearings and case notebooks. Optional MSJ hearing practice sessions and questions. **<u>MSJ HEARINGS AS SCHEDULED</u>** **Case Notebook Due:** **Noon (12:00pm), Wed., May 5** (To be turned in using OneDrive link) **You will also argue a Summary Judgment hearing in open court between May 4-14, 2027.**	**General Session:** MSJ hearings prep and discussion. **Assignments Due:** ***<u>Plaintiffs</u> Response to MSJ final drafts to be filed and served.*** ***Due by: 12:00pm, Monday, May 3*** ***(AI use NOT ALLOWED.)*** **Small Session Activities:** MSJ Responses

OTHER NOTES:

The University of Houston has a number of resources to support students' mental health and overall wellness, including CoogsCARE and the UH Go App. UH Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers 24/7 mental health support for all students, addressing various concerns like stress, college adjustment and sadness. CAPS provides individual and couples counseling, group therapy, workshops and connections to other support services on and off-campus. Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can help students who are having difficulties managing stress, adjusting to the demands of a professional program, or feeling sad and hopeless. You can reach CAPS (www.uh.edu/caps) by calling 713-743-5454 during and after business hours for routine appointments or if you or someone you know is in crisis. No appointment is necessary for the "Let's Talk" program, a drop-in consultation service at convenient locations and hours around campus. http://www.uh.edu/caps/outreach/lets_talk.html. The Student Health Center offers a Psychiatry Clinic for enrolled UH students. Call 713-743-5149 during clinic hours, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. to schedule an appointment. The A.D. Bruce Religion Center offers spiritual support and a variety of programs centered on well-being.

Need Support Now? - If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, help is available. Call CAPS crisis support 24/7 at 713-743-5454, or the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: call or text 988, or chat 988lifeline.org.

The Texas Lawyers' Assistance Program ("TLAP") also supports law students who are dealing with stress, anxiety, depression, substance abuse, and other mental health problems. You can reach TLAP at any time at 1-800-343-8527. TLAP's website includes a page with links to sources about mental health that are of interest to law students: https://www.tlaphelps.org/law-students.

Title IX/Sexual Misconduct and Anti-Discrimination Policy
Per the UHS Sexual Misconduct Policy, your instructor is a "responsible employee" for reporting purposes under Title IX regulations and state law and must report incidents of sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, sexual intimidation, intimate partner violence, or stalking) about which they become aware to the Title IX office. Please know there are places on campus where you can make a report in confidence. You can find more information about resources on the Title IX website at https://uh.edu/equal-opportunity/title-ix-sexual-misconduct/resources/.

UHLC and the University of Houston are committed to maintaining and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from discrimination and sexual misconduct. If you have experienced an incident of discrimination or sexual misconduct, a confidential reporting process is available to you. For more information, please refer to the University System's Anti-Discrimination Policy SAM 01.D.07 and Sexual Misconduct Policy SAM 01.D.08.

Diversity and Inclusion
This is an inclusive learning space. At UHLC, we are committed to ensuring inclusive online and classroom learning spaces, where you'll be treated with respect and dignity, and where everyone is provided the equitable opportunity to participate, to contribute, and to succeed. All students are welcome regardless of socio-economic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, national

origin, veteran's status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and other diverse identities. You are encouraged to speak up and to share your views, but please also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we are all expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others. If you feel that your class performance is impacted in any way by your experiences inside or outside of class, please contact the professors. We want to be a resource for you. If you feel more comfortable speaking with someone besides one of the professors, Student Services is an excellent resource: 713-743-2182. Finally, we encourage you to bring any issues negatively impacting UHLC's openness to diversity and inclusion to the Law Center's Diversity and Inclusion committee. The D&I committee's charge includes "[building] on the Law Center's strengths as a diverse and inclusive environment." You can contact the committee directly at UHLCD&I@uh.edu. Your suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. Please let us know of ways to improve the effectiveness of this course for you personally, or for other students or student groups.

Accessibility and Accommodation
UHLC is committed to ensuring that all students enjoy equal access and full participation. Any student with a disability who is experiencing barriers to learning, assessment or participation is encouraged to contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center (Dart Center) to learn more about academic accommodations and support that may be available to them. Students seeking academic accommodations will need to register with the Dart Center as soon as possible to ensure timely implementation of approved accommodations. Please contact the Dart Center by visiting the website: https://uh.edu/accessibility/ calling (713) 743-5400, or emailing jdcenter@Central.UH.EDU. If you observe religious or cultural holidays that will coincide with class sessions or conferences, please let me know as soon as possible so that we may make arrangements.

Honor Code
The UHLC Honor Code applies to all aspects of this class. You are responsible for knowing all Honor Code provisions and for complying with the Honor Code. Please ask us if you have any questions regarding how the Honor Code's provisions apply to specific activities or situations related to this course. Your continuing enrollment in this course is deemed to be a pledge by you under the Honor Code to comply with the Honor Code in relation to this course and to comply with the instructions in the course syllabus.

Chosen Names and Pronouns
Chosen names and preferred pronouns (including non-binary ones such as they/them/their) will be respected in the classroom. Although mistakes may happen, please feel free to reach out at any time if you want to make the professors aware of your chosen name or preferred pronoun, or if you have concerns about how we or your classmates address you.

COVID-19 Information
Students are encouraged to visit the University's COVID-19 website for important information including diagnosis and symptom protocols, testing, vaccine information, and post-exposure guidance. Please check the website throughout the semester for updates.

Attendance via Zoom (periodically)
This class will be taught in person, although one or two classes may be taught virtually. For any virtual classes, the class link will be emailed to the students directly. You must be logged in with a computer (not a phone) with your video camera turned on and microphone muted. Video must stay

on for the entire class unless you receive prior, written permission from the professors to leave your video off.

Recording of Class
Students may not record all or part of class, livestream all or part of class, or make/distribute screen captures, without advanced written permission from the professors. If you have or think you may have a disability such that you need to record class-related activities, please contact the Justin Dart, Jr. Student Accessibility Center. If you have an accommodation to record class-related activities, those recordings may not be shared with any other student, whether in this course or not, or with any other person or on any other platform. Classes will be recorded by the instructor. Students may use instructor's recordings for their own studying and notetaking. Instructor's recordings are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without prior written permission. Failure to comply with requirements regarding recordings will result in a disciplinary referral to the Dean of Students Office and may result in disciplinary action.

Syllabus Changes
Please note that we may need to make modifications to the course syllabus and may do so at any time. Notice(s) of such changes will be announced as quickly as possible through email or during class.